

Message Text

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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR JOHNSON'S STATEMENT OF OCTOBER 29, 1974

(SALT TWO-483)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMB. JOHNSON AT THE
SALT TWO MEETING OF OCT. 29, 1974.

QUOTE

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOHNSON
OCTOBER 29, 1974

MR. MINISTER:

I

MR. MINISTER, AS I HAVE STATED BEFORE, THE UNITED STATES
BELIEVES THAT THE NEW AGREEMENT ON THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC
OFFENSIVE ARMS UNTIL 1985 MUST PROVIDE FOR A HIGH DEGREE OF EQUIV-

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ALENCE IN THE CENTRAL STRATEGIC SYSTEMS OF BOTH SIDES, THAT IS,

ICBM'S, SLBM'S AND HEAVY BOMBERS. BOTH SIDES HAVE SAID THAT HEAVY BOMBERS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE NEW AGREEMENT. TODAY, I WILL COMMENT FURTHER ON OUR VIEWS ON THE MANNER IN WHICH HEAVY BOMBERS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN DEVELOPING THE NEW AGREEMENT.

II

THE UNITED STATES CONSIDERS HEAVY BOMBERS TO BE A MAJOR FORCE ELEMENT WHICH WILL HAVE CONTINUING IMPORTANCE DURING THE PERIOD TO BE COVERED BY THE AGREEMENT. WE BELIEVE THAT BECAUSE OF THEIR CHARACTERISTICS THEY PROVIDE A STABILIZING ELEMENT IN THE STRATEGIC BALANCE. THEY CAN BE RECALLED AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN LAUNCHED, AND SIGNIFICANT WARNING TIME IS PROVIDED BECAUSE OF THEIR FLIGHT TIME. THUS BECAUSE OF THESE CHARACTERISTICS, IT IS OUR VIEW THAT HEAVY BOMBERS, INCLUDING THOSE CURRENTLY DEPLOYED, WILL CONTINUE TO BE A MAJOR FACTOR IN THE STRATEGIC BALANCE.

THE UNITED STATES HAS PROPOSED LIMITING HEAVY BOMBERS BY INCLUDING THEM IN AN AGGREGATE ALONG WITH ICBM AND SLBM LAUNCHERS. THIS AGGREGATE, WE BELIEVE, WOULD BEST BE ACHIEVED THROUGH PHASED MUTUAL REDUCTIONS TO A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE COMMON LOWER LEVEL. THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THIS IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN ACHIEVING A HIGH DEGREE OF EQUIVALENCE IN CENTRAL STRATEGIC SYSTEMS.

III

ANOTHER MAJOR ELEMENT OF THE U.S. CONCEPT FOR A HIGH DEGREE OF EQUIVALENCE IS TO CONSTRAIN THE DESTRUCTIVE POTENTIAL ON BOTH SIDES. THUS THE AGREEMENT SHOULD PROVIDE FOR LIMITATIONS ON THROW-WEIGHT. IN FORMULATING SUCH LIMITATIONS, THE U.S. AGREES THAT THE PAYLOAD OF HEAVY BOMBERS SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED OUR VIEW THAT THROW-WEIGHT IS A FUNDAMENTAL INDEX OF THE DESTRUCTIVE POTENTIAL OF MISSILES. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE DESTRUCTIVE POTENTIAL OF HEAVY BOMBERS CANNOT BE MEASURED BY THE MAXIMUM PAYLOAD.

A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE PAYLOAD OF HEAVY BOMBERS MUST BE ALLOCATED TO THE PENETRATION OF AIR DEFENSES. THESE AIR DEFENSES, UNLIKE ABM DEFENSES, ARE NOT LIMITED BY TREATY. THIS FACT MUST
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BE CONSIDERED IN REACHING AN EQUITABLE AGREEMENT WHICH PROVIDES FOR LIMITATIONS ON THROW-WEIGHT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT BOMBER PAYLOAD.

IN CONCLUSION, MR. MINISTER, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT HEAVY BOMBERS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN A NEW AGREEMENT ON LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS UNTIL 1985 BY INCLUDING THEM IN AN OVERALL AGGREGATE TO BE ESTABLISHED FOR CENTRAL STRATEGIC SYSTEMS. IN

ORDER TO CONSTRAIN THE POTENTIAL DESTRUCTIVE CAPABILITY OF CENTRAL STRATEGIC SYSTEMS, THE AGREEMENT SHOULD PROVIDE FOR LIMITATIONS ON THROW-WEIGHT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT BOMBER PAYLOAD. I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HEARING THE VIEWS OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION WITH REGARD TO THESE CONSIDERATIONS.

UNQUOTE

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